

Amendments To Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for flexible allocation of a resource, comprising the steps of:

associating a soft limit and a hard limit to a potential user of the resource wherein the soft limit guarantees access to the resource by the potential user and the hard limit enables the potential user to exceed the soft limit on a first-come-first-served basis;

obtaining a request for allocation of a portion of the resource for the potential user;

AI granting the request if the request if allowed would not exceed a ~~the~~ soft limit ~~associated with a~~ of ~~the~~ potential user ~~associated with the request, wherein the soft limit guarantees access to the resource by the potential user;~~

denying the request if the request if allowed would exceed a ~~the~~ hard limit ~~associated with~~ of ~~the~~ potential user, ~~wherein the hard limit enables the potential user to exceed the soft limit on a first come first served basis;~~

denying the request if the request if allowed would cause a grand total allocation of the resource to exceed a high watermark assigned to the resource and granting the request otherwise.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of denying the request if the request if allowed would cause a grand total allocation of the resource to exceed a high watermark further comprises the step of entering a reduction mode for handling a subsequent request for allocation of the resource.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the reduction mode comprises the step of:

granting the subsequent request if the subsequent request if allowed would not exceed a soft limit associated with a

potential user associated with the subsequent request;

denying the subsequent request if the subsequent request if allowed would exceed a hard limit associated with the potential user associated with the subsequent request;

denying the subsequent request if the grand total allocation of the resource is above a low watermark associated with the resource and granting the subsequent request otherwise.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of assigning the low watermark to the resource.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of assigning the soft limit to the potential user.

a 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of assigning the soft limit comprises the step of assigning the soft limit in response to a class associated with the potential user.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of assigning the hard limit to the potential user.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of assigning the hard limit comprises the step of assigning the hard limit in response to a class associated with the potential user.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of assigning the high watermark to the resource.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of allocating a portion of the resource for system use.

11. (Original) A computer system, comprising:

resource;

a set of resource allocation parameters for the resource including a high watermark for the resource and a hard limit and a soft limit associated with a potential user of the resource;

task that generates a request for allocation of a portion of the resource;

resource manager that in a normal mode grants the request if the request if allowed would not exceed the soft limit and denies the request if the request if allowed would exceed the hard limit and denies the request if the request if allowed would cause a grand total allocation of the resource to exceed the high watermark and grants the request otherwise.

al 12. (Original) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the resource manager switches to a reduction mode if the request if allowed would cause the grand total allocation to exceed the high watermark such that the resource manager grants all subsequent requests that reduce a consumption of the resource while in the reduction mode.

13. (Original) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the soft limit is assigned to the potential user to guarantee access to the resource by the potential user.

14. (Original) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the hard limit is assigned to the potential user to enable the potential user to exceed the soft limit on a first-come-first-served basis.

15. (Original) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the resource manager enters a reduction mode for handling a subsequent request for allocation of the resource if the request if allowed would exceed the high watermark.

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16. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 15, wherein the resource manager in the reduction mode grants the subsequent request if the subsequent request if allowed would not exceed a soft limit associated with a potential user associated with the subsequent request and denies the subsequent request if the subsequent request if allowed would exceed a hard limit associated with the potential user associated with the subsequent request and denies the subsequent request if the grand total allocation of the resource is above a low watermark associated with the resource and grants the subsequent request if the grand total allocation is below the low watermark.

17. (Original) The computer system of claim 16, wherein the resource manager switches to the normal mode if the grand total allocation is below the low watermark.
